

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

Southern District of Texas

United States Courts
Southern District of Texas

FILED

February 12, 2020

United States of America

v.

Amari Mychael Singh,
Date of Birth 12/1998

David J. Bradley, Clerk of Court

Case No. **4:20mj0285**

Defendant(s)

CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

I, the complainant in this case, state that the following is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

On or about the date(s) of October 8, 2019 in the county of Harris County in the
Southern District of Texas, the defendant(s) violated:

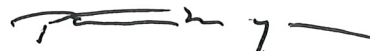
Code Section

Offense Description

18 USC § 2251 (a)
18 USC § 2252A(a)(2)(B)Sexual exploitation of children.
Distribution of child pornography.

This criminal complaint is based on these facts:

See attached Affidavit of probable cause.

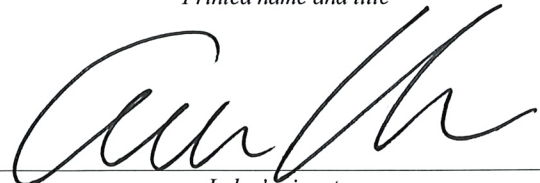
☒ Continued on the attached sheet.

Complainant's signature

Patrick M. York, FBI Special Agent

Printed name and title

Sworn to before me and signed in my presence.

Date: 2-12-20City and state: Houston, TX

Judge's signature

Andrew M. Edison, U.S. Magistrate Judge

Printed name and title

AFFIDAVIT OF PROBABLE CAUSE

Your Affiant, Patrick M. York, being duly sworn, deposes and states the following:

1. I am a Special Agent (SA) of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) currently assigned to the Houston Division Texas City Residence Agency (TCRA) investigating violent crime matters, which includes crimes against children. I have been a Special Agent of the FBI since February 2009. While in the FBI, I have been assigned to violent crime squads investigating and assisting with the investigations of gangs, drugs, fugitives, crimes against children, and crimes in Indian Country, which include sexual assaults, aggravated assaults, and homicides. Prior to the FBI, I was a Texas Peace Officer for over twelve years.
2. This Affidavit is made in support of a criminal complaint charging Amari Mychael SINGH (SINGH) with violating Title 18 U.S.C. § 2251(a) and (e), the sexual exploitation of children and Title 18 U.S.C. § 2252A(a)(2)(B) and 2252A(b)(1), the distribution of child pornography.
3. This Affidavit is being submitted for the limited purpose of securing a criminal complaint, I have not included each and every fact known to me concerning this investigation, I have set forth only those facts I believe are necessary to establish probable cause that evidence of violation of Title 18 U.S.C. § 2251(a) and (e), the sexual exploitation of children occurred between the dates of on or about October 7, 2109 through on or about October 10, 2019; and evidence of violation of Title 18 U.S.C. § 2252A(a)(2)(B) and 2252A(b)(1), the distribution of child pornography, occurred on or about October 8, 2019 and on or about October 10, 2019 and were committed by Amari Mychael SINGH. Throughout this Affidavit, statements made by sources of information and other witnesses are set forth in substance and in pertinent part unless otherwise indicated. Further, the facts and circumstances of this investigation have not been set forth in pertinent part for the purpose of this Affidavit and do not include the complete factual history of this investigation, or all of its details.

Factual Basis to Support Criminal Complaint

4. On or about October 24, 2019, FBI Task Force Officer Aaron Arizmendi and Affiant attended a meeting with managers and probation officers of the Galveston County Juvenile Detention Center in Texas City, Texas. During that meeting, the managers informed the FBI that they believed multiple female juveniles that were previously in custody or are currently still in custody, were being recruited by a 17 year old female juvenile that was also in detention, to engage in prostitution when released from detention. Additionally, it was believed the recruiter was working for a 20 year old adult male identified as SINGH. The suspected juveniles were the subject of or involved in multiple department reports from League City Police Department (LCPD), Dickinson Police Department (DPD), and Kemah Police Department (KPD).
5. One of the female juveniles, hereafter known as MV1 (Minor Victim 1), was previously reported as a missing person/runaway to LCPD on October 14, 2019. MV1 was 15 years old at the time of the report. According to the LCPD report, MV1's mother was able to log into MV1's iCloud account and see among other things, copies of text messages MV1 was communicating on her iPhone. Based on the conversations, MV1 was suspected to be involved in prostitution. There were conversations between MV1 and two customers, as well as, another person MV1 referred to as "daddy" and/or "HB", who appeared to broker dates for MV1. There were other topics of text conversations, including discussing negotiations for price and time, MV1's loyalty to "daddy", and the collection of money with "daddy". The phone number for "daddy" was 346-288-1976. According to law enforcement databases, the phone number is associated with the individual, Gregory Strickland.
6. According to reports, on or about October 16, 2019, LCPD detectives had located MV1 in Webster, Texas, and brought her to the LCPD where Detective Angie Strachan interviewed MV1. During the interview, MV1 stated on approximately Monday or Tuesday, October 7th or 8th of 2019, she went with SINGH to a Palace Inn

on Bay Area Boulevard. There SINGH provided MV1 “bars”, commonly known as Xanax, and they smoked marijuana. MV1 stated she passed out fully clothed, but woke up to her pants unbuttoned and her shirt was partially off. MV1 stated she did not remember what happened, but SINGH told her that they had “fucked”.

7. MV1 told Detective Strachan that there is a video on her Snapchat of MV1 and SINGH having sex. Detective Strachan recorded the video provided by MV1. MV1 stated SINGH had taken a video of their sexual encounter and posted the video from his Snapchat and sent the video to MV1’s Snapchat. The female and male’s faces were not seen on the video, however, MV1 identified herself and SINGH as the two people in the video. MV1 also stated SINGH often posts videos on Snapchat of him with guns and drugs. MV1’s Snapchat username is “lil.baby291”. SINGH’S Snapchat username is “Amari212”.
8. On or about October 31, 2019, Detective Strachan provided the recording of the Snapchat video of MV1 and SINGH having sex to the FBI. TFO Arizmendi and Affiant viewed the recording. The recording showed what appeared to be a juvenile female on her hands and knees with a male penetrating the juvenile female with his penis from behind. The juvenile female had a blue colored top on.
9. On November 20, 2019, MV1 was re-interviewed by TFO Arizmendi and Affiant. MV1 stated she knew SINGH previously from Snapchat. SINGH sent MV1 a text letting her know he had a hotel room and “bars” if she wanted to join in. MV1 stated she joined SINGH at the hotel with a juvenile friend of hers. MV1 identified the hotel on a map as the Hampton Inn located at 506 Bay Area Boulevard, Webster, Harris County, Texas. When asked about the discrepancy in the name of the hotel in the LCPD report, MV1 recalled wearing a blue shirt and hanging out and smoking by the swimming pool on the north side of the Hampton Inn property. MV1 stated SINGH would also often stay at the Palace Inn located at 1568 Live Oak Street, Webster, Texas. MV1 stated she saw the sex video on her Snapchat after it had already been viewed and saved. She does not know who viewed or saved the video.

According to MV1, SINGH was aware of their age difference and that MV1 was 15 years old.

10. MV1 stated “HB” also showed up at the hotel. “HB” is also known as Homeboy. MV1 does not know HB’s real name. MV1 was shown a photo of Gregory Strickland. MV1 identified the person in the photo as HB. MV1 stated HB had sex with her juvenile friend the same time MV1 was having sex with SINGH.
11. On November 20, 2019, and again on December 3, 2019, TFO Arizmendi and Affiant interviewed another female juvenile, hereafter known as MV2 (Minor Victim 2). MV2 was also a reported runaway to LCPD in January 2019. In the LCPD report, SINGH and his phone number 832-385-8476 are referenced in the report as an investigative lead to the location of MV2. MV2 stated she first met SINGH through a friend and had dated SINGH between October 9, 2018 to December 31, 2018. She was 16 years old at the time. According to MV2, SINGH knew MV2 was 16 years old because he saw her photo and missing person flyer that was in the media when she ran away in January 2019. He also knew MV2 went to high school.
12. MV2 knew SINGH’S Snapchat username was Aarmi212. MV2 stated SINGH would post women, guns, and drugs for sale on his Snapchat. MV2 specifically recalled SINGH posting two girls from Louisiana and two other females for sale. One post was a video taken inside a car belonging to one of the females, who was an ex-girlfriend of SINGH. MV2 believed all these girls were over 18 years old. HB had picked up the two girls from Louisiana and brought them to Houston. While on the run in January 2019, MV2 remembers staying at a hotel in Houston with SINGH. The two females from Louisiana and HB were also in the same hotel.
13. Besides herself, MV2 stated she is aware of two other female juveniles that SINGH had sex with. MV2 identified MV1 as one of the two. The second female, hereafter known as MV3 (Minor Victim 3) has not been fully identified at this point in the investigation. MV2 stated MV3 is also on SINGH’s Snapchat having sex. MV2 and MV3 attended high school together.

14. On December 5, 2019, two federal search warrants for the Snapchat accounts “Amari212” and “lil.baby291” were issued in the Southern District of Texas by United States Magistrate Judge Andrew M. Edison. The search warrants were executed on December 6, 2019. On January 13, 2020, Affiant received an email from Snapchat with a zip file containing materials requested in the search warrant for account “Amari212”.
15. While reviewing the files for account “Amari212” provided by Snapchat, Affiant discovered the following:
 - a. Within the zip file was the Snapchat Account Subscriber Information. The subscriber ID was listed as amari212, with email address amarisingh28@gmail.com. The phone number associated with the account was 832-385-8476. In the LCPD report regarding MV2, this phone number is associated with SINGH.
 - b. Throughout the files, Affiant observes many selfie-type photos or videos of SINGH, including a Chat Media of SINGH’s Texas Driver’s License.
 - c. In the Chat Media file, on October 8, 2019, MV1 through her account “lil.baby291,” sends a Chat Media to SINGH’s account “Amari212”. The Chat Media file is a screen shot of a map for the Hampton Inn and Suites, Houston/Clear Lake-Nasa area. Fifteen minutes later, MV1 sends SINGH chat message asking, “U already at tha [sic] room?” SINGH replies, “Yes”. This is the same Hampton Inn and Suites MV1 identified during her interview on November 20, 2019, with Affiant and TFO Arizmendi.
 - d. Also within the zip file were three Chat Media files that are child pornography. Two of the files are video files that appear to be the same video. The video file was sent on October 8, 2019 from “Amari212” to “lil.baby291” and then again the video file was sent on October 10, 2019 from “Amari212” to a Snapchat account with username “that_onegurl”. The video is the same Det. Strachan

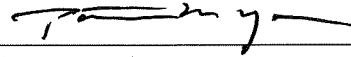
provided to the FBI depicting MV1 and SINGH having sex. Additionally, there is a still image taken from the same video file that was sent on October 10, 2019 from “Amari212” to “that_onegurl”. The image depicts MV1 with a blue shirt, on her hands and knees, and with SINGH’s left hand on MV1’s bare lower back.

- e. Also in the zip files from Snapchat are several Chat Batched Media files that contain several images of what appear to be narcotics, various firearms, and large sums of cash. There are images of marijuana in various amounts ranging from a handful to a vacuum sealed brick-paver sized bag. There are images of Xanax, commonly known as “bars” in various colors and amounts ranging from a small ziplock bag with a dozen or more to a bigger plastic bag with what appears to be over a hundred “bars”. There is also a Snapchat with the image of SINGH holding what appears to be a large clear plastic bag, almost as large as his head, of marijuana. The caption on the Snapchat reads, “I ain’t gone be pushing the narcotics for too much longer..” The images of firearms include several different semi-automatic pistols, some with extended magazines, a shotgun, a SKS or AK-47 type rifle, and what appears to be a Tech-9 pistol.

- 16. Based on my training and experience, the file sent by SINGH’s Chat Media account and the file found on MV1’s Snapchat meet the federal definition of child pornography as defined by Title 18 U.S.C. § 2256.

Conclusion

- 17. Based on the information set forth above, your Affiant believes there is probable cause to believe that between the dates of on or about October 7, 2019 through on or about October 10, 2019, Amari Mychael SINGH was in violation of Title 18 U.S.C. § 2251(a) and (e), the sexual exploitation of children. Furthermore, your Affiant believes there is probable cause to believe on or about October 8, 2019 and on October 10, 2019, Amari Mychael SINGH was in violation of Title 18 U.S.C. § 2252A(a)(2)(B) by distributing child pornography.



Patrick M. York
FBI Special Agent

Subscribed and sworn to and before me this 12th day of February, 2020, and I find probable cause.



Andrew M. Edison
United States Magistrate Judge